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DIAMOND JUBILEE OF SAINT
PETER'S CATHOLIC CHURCH,

1872 1947

Diamond Jubilee

of

St. Peter's Catholic Church

Fort Wayne, Indiana

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FORT WAYNE & ALLEN CO., IND.

VERY REV. JOHN A. BAPST, Pastor

* * *

November 23, 1947

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1872 1947

Allen County Public Library
900 Webster Street
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Fort Wayne, IN 46801-2270

DEDICATION

To the memory of the Priests, Religious, and the Laity of St. Peter's Parish, who by their zeal and sacrifice have made the glory of this day possible, we lovingly dedicate this souvenir.

HIS HOLINESS POPE PIUS XII

HIS EXCELLENCY ARCHBISHOP AMLETO GIOVANNI CICOGNANI

Apostolic Delegate to the United States

APOSTOLIC DELEGATION
United States of America

3339 Massachusetts Avenue
Washington, D. C.
September 10, 1947

The Very Reverend Msgr. John A. Bapst,
St. Peter's Parish,
Fort Wayne, Indiana

My dear Monsignor:

I am indeed pleased to inform you that on this happy occasion of the Diamond Jubilee of the Founding of St. Peter's Parish, our Most Holy Father, Pope Pius XII, has very graciously deigned to impart the special Apostolic Benediction.

It is the wish of His Holiness that this Blessing be shared in by all the members of St. Peter's Parish, by the Reverend Clergy and Religious laboring there, and by all the friends and benefactors who will join in observing this joyous anniversary.

As I convey to you this August Message of the Sovereign Pontiff I wish to assure you also of my own personal congratulations.

With renewed felicitations and sentiments of sincere esteem, I remain,
Sincerely yours in Christ

✠ AMLETO GIOVANNI CICOGNANI,
Archbishop of Laodicea,
Apostolic Delegate to the United States.

THE MOST REVEREND JOHN F. NOLL, BISHOP OF FORT WAYNE

BISHOP'S HOUSE

Diocese of Fort Wayne
1415 West Washington Blvd.,
Fort Wayne 2, Indiana.
September 16, 1947

Very Rev. Msgr. John A. Bapst
St. Peter's Square,
Fort Wayne, 5, Indiana

Dear Monsignor:

Having learned from you that St. Peter's Parish will observe the seventy-fifth anniversary of its establishment, I hasten to felicitate you and all you good parishoners on this event, and shall be glad to celebrate that day with you.

I have been a close observer of the development of St. Peter's from the time it used the little combination church and school, where I attended Father Tremmel's first Mass nearly sixty years ago.

I have personally known all its pastors with the exception of the first pastor, Father Wemhoff.

The pastors of St. Peter's have always been very co-operative with the Bishop and none more than yourself. You have been blessed with good assistants and have been a good trainer of them. Your motto has been "service" and it is service that elicits the confidence of the people, their whole-hearted response to spiritual practice and counsel.

That the Lord may continue to bless your efforts and bind together even more closely the priests and people of St. Peter's is the fervent prayer of the diocesan shepherd.

Sincerely in Christ,

✠ J. F. NOLL
Bishop of Fort Wayne

1872-1947

VERY REV. MSGR. JOHN A. BAPST

November, 1947

To the People of
St. Peter's Parish:

On the occasion of the Diamond Jubilee of our Parish, I feel privileged to extend to you, in my own name and in the name of the other Fathers, my sincerest congratulations.

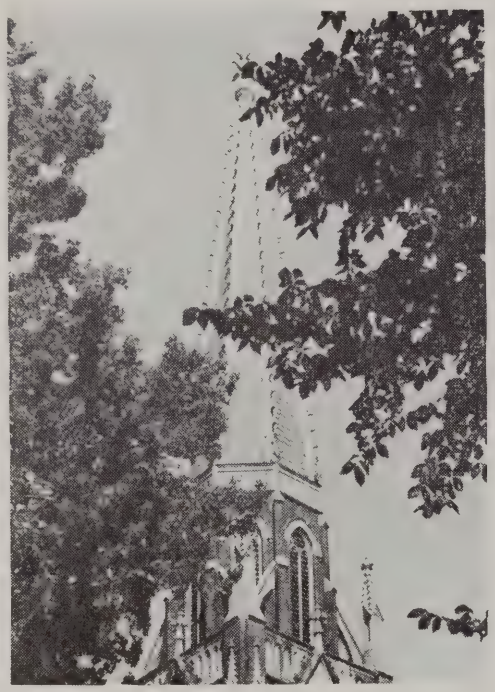
The History of this Parish has truly been glorious. Of it you have just reason to be proud.

My deepest gratitude to you for the loyal and generous support you have given me in all of the eleven years of my pastorate here.

May God's Blessing be yours in abundance, your Faith in His Mysteries more fervent, your loyalty to His Laws more exact, so that the passing of time may find you even more worthy of the noble heritage that is yours today.

MONSIGNOR BAPST,
Pastor of St. Peter's Parish

HISTORY OF ST. PETER'S PARISH



For the pioneer Catholic of this area the year 1872 was a memorable one. It marked the beginning of St. Peter's Parish. For the Catholic of today the year 1947 will also be a date never to be forgotten. It marks the year of St. Peter's Diamond Jubilee. To tell what happened during the seventy-five years that intervened is to tell the life-story of this Parish —a story of zeal and sacrifice, of courage and co-operation, of generosity and loyalty, on the part of priest and people. The lines that follow are a humble attempt to tell this story — a story in which we all have reason to take pride.

The History of Catholicity in early America is indeed glorious and interesting. But, regretfully, space allowed here does not warrant us to incorporate it in this article. Nevertheless, there are some important and significant facts which we here ought to keep in mind. By way of introduction then, may we call into review a few of these facts. Facts such as these: that missionary endeavor to bring the Gospel Message to people of this area actually antedates the birth of this country as a nation; that as early as 1674, so a reliable source has it, Holy Mass was read in the section now known as northern Indiana; that the first Catholic Church in this state was built at Vincennes in the year 1793; that in the year 1880 Father Theodore Badin, the first priest ordained in the United States, was celebrant of the First Mass read in the City of Fort Wayne. Finally, that in the year 1837 Fort Wayne's first Catholic Parish was formed.

Known then as St. Augustine's, now called the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, that "first" parish of Fort Wayne for the next decade served the entire Catholic population of the City. The year 1848 saw the organization of another. At this time thirty German families hitherto belonging to St. Augustine's asked Bishop Dwenger to create a parish for Catholics of their own nationality. He granted their request. That was the beginning of St. Mary's. Seventeen years later some German Catholics living in the western part of the City made a similar plea to the Bishop. Again he responded favorably. Thus was born St.

Paul's. Seventy-five years ago, in the Spring of the year 1872, the corner-stone was laid for a fourth City Parish—that of St. Peter's.

In the extreme southeastern section of Fort Wayne the population was predominantly French and German. In fact this particular territory was locally known as Frenchtown and Germantown respectively. In this area not a few families were Catholic. They believed that here also there was a definite need for a Catholic Church and School. As the area grew in population, the need became more pronounced. While all shared the hope of one day having a parish in this area, still no one seemed to take the initiative to organize—until the year 1871. In the Spring of that year a rather sad incident occurred. A little girl who lived in this district was on her way to school. To get there it was necessary for her to cross the Pennsylvania Railroad tracks. Evidently, she failed to take the proper precaution before attempting to cross, for she walked directly into the path of a fast passenger train. She was instantly killed. It was the tragic death of this little child that prompted immediate action towards the establishment of a new parish here.

So it was that early in the Summer of 1871 a community of German and French Catholics assembled for this purpose. The chairman of this initial meeting was Peter Mettler. For many years he had shown a keen interest in this project. At the very first gathering it was unanimously decided that, should Episcopal approval be given, they would name the new parish "St. Peter's." In making such a choice they would place the new organization under the guidance and protection of the Prince of the Apostles and at the same time honor the man most interested in its establishment. After this meeting, periodically there were several other similar ones held, usually at various business places in this area. At these meetings, among other things, it was decided that the parish would have defined lines; it would embrace the area bounded on the North by the Pennsylvania Railroad, on the West by Lafayette Street, with the city's limits as its Eastern and Southern lines. Finally, a committee was selected and delegated to approach Bishop Dwenger on the matter.

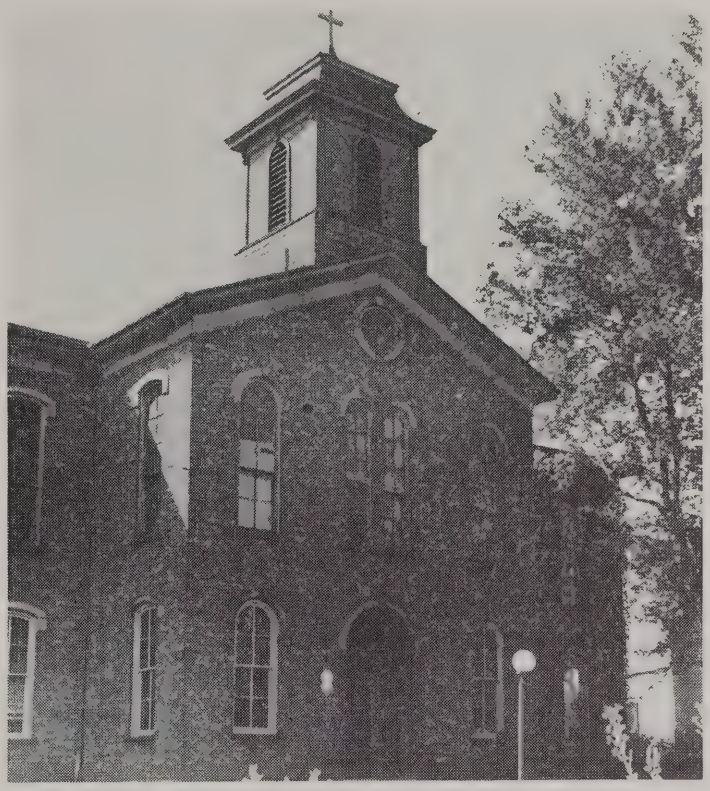
When the group called on the Bishop they were warmly received. When they had explained the purpose of their visit and somewhat elaborated on their intended plans, he seemed surprisingly enthused. Time showed that he was. Not only did he grant permission to organize a new Parish, he promised then his wholehearted support. To prove his promise genuine, he immediately appointed a Pastor for the parish-to-be. The priest who received that appointment was Father John Wemhoff.

Father John Wemhoff was born in Minster, Germany, Oct. 11, 1837, and came to America in 1858. He was ordained by Bishop Luers in 1862. For a year and a half he served as Assistant in different parishes of the Diocese, and in 1863 was appointed Pastor of St. Mary's, Avilla. In 1865 he was appointed Pastor of St. Mary's, Decatur, having charge also of St. Joseph's Parish. In 1872 he was sent to begin the new parish at St. Peter's.

The task assigned to Father Wemhoff was not an enviable one. It was difficult. Such are all beginnings. This was not an exception. Father Wemhoff, although only thirty-five years of age, did not enjoy the best health. But he was a man of determination. Difficulties, however great, could not discourage him. Problems, be they ever so complex, could not stop him. There was a way around each difficulty. There was a solution to every problem. It was his task to find them. And he did. He was also a man with a keen sense of foresight. He seemed to understand that the small parish he was appointed to start was destined to grow—and grow rapidly. In his day Creighton Avenue was the City's southern limits. Beyond was wilderness. Yet, he dreamed of the day when that area would no longer be a "wilderness", but a thoroughly populated district. You and I are witness that his was no idle dream. Today it is a reality.

FATHER JOHN WEMHOFF

His first work was to procure a site for the newly formed parish. So he purchased three lots in the so-called LaSalle Addition. This transaction cost exactly $1,400. Later he bought another lot, and to encourage members, he made of it a personal donation to the Parish. This selection of property seemed highly pleasing to all, and in order to make the square complete, eight additional lots were eventually obtained. So it was that at a very early date the property came to be known as St. Peter's Square. Once he had the necessary property, the next step was to build.



FIRST CHURCH AND SCHOOL

The first Parish structure erected was a solid brick combination building, intended to serve as Church and School. It was a two-story building with a ground area 70 ft. by 40 ft. The first floor provided four large school rooms. The hall on the second floor was used as a Church. It had a seating capacity of 300. The cost of this building was amazingly small. Due to the fact that a considerable amount of the labor was done by the parishoners themselves, the total cost did not exceed $10,000. Among those who gave freely of their time and service were: Anton Walker, John Franke, Peter Harnishfeger, Lawrence and Conrad Becker. All are deceased. On December 27, 1872 this building was dedicated. The following year St. Peter's School was opened with an enrollment of forty children. These children were taught by lay teachers: Messrs. Ross, Buechler, and Saenker. This however was not the extent of Father Wemhoff's building program.

In the same year that the Combination Church-School was erected, Father Wemhoff also built the first Priests' Rectory. This Rectory was a frame structure and was completed in 1872. It was used as a Rectory for the next nine years. Then it was converted temporarily into a convent, and still later into a parish recreation center. It still stands and is now used as a private dwelling. It is located at 2001 South Hanna Street.

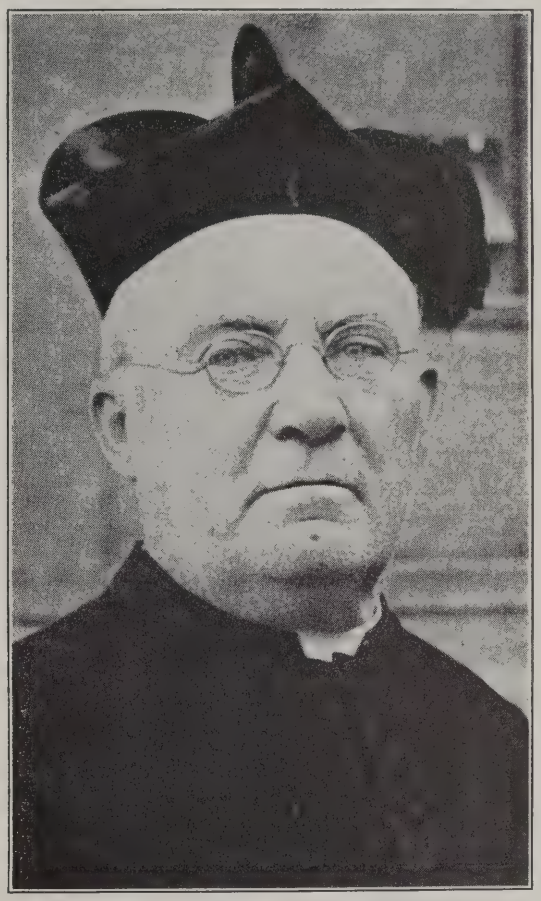
Unfortunately, the pastorate of the one who organized St. Peter's and cultivated in its members a spirit of zeal and co-operation it has never lost, was short-lived. On December 1, 1880, Father Wemhoff died suddenly at the age of 45 years. He was buried in the Catholic Cemetery here.

FIRST PARISH RECTORY

Following the death of Father Wemhoff, Bishop Dwenger appointed Father Anthony Messmann as the second Pastor of this Parish. He likewise was a native of Germany, born there Dec. 11, 1839. He came to America at the age of 20. He was ordained in 1870 by Bishop Luers. Following his ordination he served as Assistant at St. Vincent's, Logansport. Thence he was appointed Pastor of St. Joseph's, Kentland. In December, 1880, he was appointed the Pastor of St. Peter's Parish, Fort Wayne. He was forty-one years of age when he received this appointment. He already had ten years of pastoral experience. More than that he came to a parish well organized. Yet, in spite of these favorable factors, his t ask was equally as arduous as that of his predecessor — only in a different way. Father Wemhoff had to begin. Father Messmann inherited a program of expansion.

When he came, Father Messmann assumed a debt of $8,000. So he first focused his efforts towards the liquidation of this debt. In a short time, thanks to the generous co-opera-

tion of the people, he was able to clear this obligation. Next, he directed his attention to the school—not to its building, but rather to its operation. Up to this time the school was staffed with laymen as teachers. Father Messmann firmly believed that a Catholic School should be taught by Religious, and he determined to follow his convictions. However, if Sisters were to teach, they needed a place in which to stay. Father Messman found another problem facing him, but he quickly found its solution. From a certain John Mohr he purchased a frame house that stood on the site today occupied by the Church, moved it to its present location, and made that building the Parish Rectory. The home he had formerly used was converted



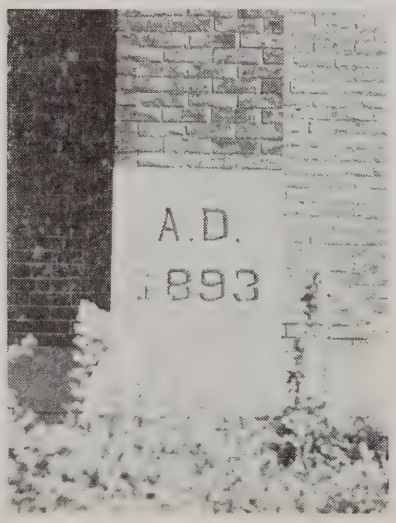
FATHER ANTHONY MESSMANN

into a temporary Convent. In the year 1881 he succeeded in bringing to St. Peter's School the School Sisters of Notre Dame of Milwaukee, Wisconsin. This Community, who currently are observing the Centenary of their coming to America, have since been teaching in St. Peter's. It was during this same year 1881 that Father Messman built a new convent for the Sisters on St. Peter's Square.

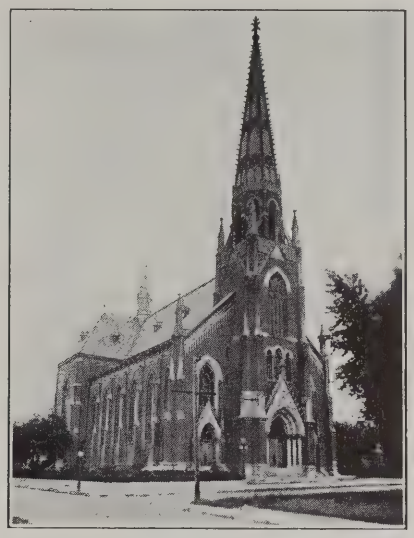
PRESENT RECTORY

SISTERS' CONVENT

Except for the combination Church-School, the Sister's Convent, the Rectory, and a lonely ornamental street lamp on the northwest corner of the property, St. Peter's Square was barren. The only approach to the three buildings were either poorly constructed board walks or dirt pathways, which in rainy seasons made walking most disagreeable. Father Messman could appreciate the convenience of solid sidewalks. So he built them where he felt they were needed. Then too, there was little on the property in the form of nature's firmament that might make the Square attractive. So to give the place an air of natural beauty, he landscaped it, and directed the planting of a number of maple trees — these trees still stand.



Father Messmann served St. Peter's as its pastor for sixteen years. During that time he accomplished much in a material as well as in a spiritual way. However, unquestionably the most outstanding was the building of the New Church. It was begun in the year 1892 and completed the following year. The plans for this building were drawn by architect, Peter Diedrich of Detroit, Michigan, and the building contract was let to John Suelzer, Sr., of this city. On November 4, 1894, the New Church was dedicated. Bishop Joseph Rademacher officiated at the ceremony of dedication. The New Church is Gothic in style; it measures 190 ft. x 80 ft., and is surmounted by a lofty steeple towering over 200 ft. It is truly an imposing edifice. To this day architects and building experts marvel at its structure and its beauty. They marvel even more as its cost. It was built and furnished at a total expense of $75,000.



In July, 1896, Father Messmann was transferred to St. Joseph's, La Porte, Indiana. There he continued the same zealous work characteristic of his pastorate here until his death on May 22, 1912.

FATHER FERDINAND KOERDT

As successor to Father Messmann, in 1896 Bishop Rademacher appointed Father Ferdinand Koerdt, the third Pastor of St. Peter's. He was born in Germany in 1853 and came to America in 1875. He was ordained Priest in 1876 by Bishop Dwenger. His first appointment was that of Pastor of Sheldon with Bluffton as a mission. In the year 1896 he was sent to St. Peter's to be its third Pastor. The Bishop's choice at this time indicated that he was keenly aware of St. Peter's need and not at all stranger to Father Koerdt's interest and ability.

For the newly-appointed pastor was vitally interested in the progress and advancement of education in Diocesan schools. More than that he was a member of a group of "Examiners", appointed by the Bishop to give oral quizzes to the children in schools throughout the Diocese. In a word, Father Koerdt was a "school man."

He believed that once a boy or girl had completed the primary grades, it ought to be given an opportunity of preparing itself for its life's work. Since most children of that day aspired to a business career, the most practical course he could offer would be one that would equip the pupil for such work. With these thoughts in mind, Father Koerdt in the year 1898 organized St. Peter's Commercial High School. In the year 1900 he presided at the first graduation exercises of this School. This Commercial School continued until the year 1938 when the new Central Catholic High School was built. In the forty years of its existence thirty-eight classes have graduated — approximately two thousand young men and women.

The Parish was now thirty-two years old. And in that relatively brief era it had increased in numbers considerably. It needed greater accommodations. The new Church was a partial solution of the problem. Now a new School was needed. The old one no longer was adequate to care for the large number of children in attendance. Remembering Father Koerdt's interest and realizing St. Peter's need at this time, we are not at all surprised that under Father Koerdt's direction and supervision a large and imposing School building should be planned and designed. However, much to his regret, he could complete only one wing of this planned structure. It was built in the year 1904 at the cost of $18,000. This was Father Koerdt's last major accomplishment here at St. Peter's. For in the early spring of the following year, because of failing health he asked the Bishop to give him a temporary leave of absence. The Bishop granted his request. He went to Los Angeles, California, and on the 7th of May, 1905, he died at the age of fifty-two.

RT. REV. CHARLES H. THIELE

On the patronal feast of the Parish, June 29, in the year 1905, Father Charles H. Thiele entered upon his duties here as irremovable Rector. He was born in Leer, Germany, in 1862, and came to America at the age of three. After a short stay in Baltimore, he came with his parents to Goshen, Indiana. In 1879 he entered the University of Notre Dame and later he attended St. Francis Seminary, St. Francis, Wisconsin. On June 29, 1888, he was ordained a

priest by Bishop Dwenger. One month later he was appointed Pastor at Monterey, Indiana. Later he was transferred to Sacred Heart Parish, Whiting, Indiana, where he remained until June, 1905, when he was appointed Pastor of St. Peter's, Fort Wayne.

One of his first achievements here was to make access to the Church more convenient. Prior to his coming Warsaw street terminated at DeWald. In the year 1907 Father Thiele succeeded in extending Warsaw street sufficiently south as to render a more direct approach to the Church for people living in that section.

When he came here each parish building had its own individual heating unit. In an effort to blend efficiency with economy he installed a central heating plant. This improvement cut down the janitor's labor two-thirds, since with one operation he could now supply heat for the Church, the School, and the Convent.

Father Thiele was a deeply religious man. He firmly believed that nothing was too beautiful or too costly for the House of God, providing it was proportionate to the means of the people. Hence, it was hardly a source of surprise that in 1908 he directed his attention to making major improvements in the Church.

Exteriorly the Church was an architectural gem. It was beautiful on the inside as well. However, much of its inner beauty was lost because the walls were so desperately in need of decoration. Father Thiele then had the entire Church frescoed. Next, newly hand-painted Stations of the Cross were erected. During that same year the three beautifully-illuminated altars were built. They were designed and installed by the Emil Hackner Company of La Cross, Wisconsin. This was done at a cost of $8,000.

Father Thiele will always be remembered as one who took great delight in song. In Church Music he found an even greater thrill. From the beginning of his pastorate he strongly encouraged congregational singing, and strived to cultivate it all through the years among the people here. To this day congregational singing is singularly characteristic of St. Peter's. This fondness for music and a constant effort to make Church services more impressive, prompted him to purchase at this time a beautiful new pipe organ. This instrument is not an ordinary one; it is unique. It was built and in-

stalled by the Tellers - Kent Organ Company of Erie, Pennsylvania. It contains all the stops required by the Church for liturgical accompaniment. Besides, it has a large variety of colorful stops, reproducing most of the instruments found in a symphony orchestra. It also contains a set of chimes of 21 notes, a harp of 48 notes, and except for the open Diapason, the entire organ is under expression. In all, there are fifty-four stops and couplers in this organ and a total of 3311 pipes. It is indeed an instrument of rare quality. Recognized musicians have often remarked that this pipe organ is second to none in the city, and one of the outstanding in the Diocese of Fort Wayne.

In the year 1914 Father Thiele enlarged the School Building, completing the original plans made some years previous by Father Koerdt. This addition cost $125,000. By this time the Convent had become too small to accommodate the large number of sisters required to teach in School. So, improvements here during that same year included remodeling and enlarging of the Sisters' home.

The year 1922 found St. Peter's Parish on the threshold of its Golden Jubilee. It also found Father Thiele busily engaged in making plans preparatory to the celebration of this occasion. Father Thiele loved celebrations, and he sought to make this one as elaborate as possible. He did. The local newspapers under that date carried a detailed account of the event. Suffice it here to mention only the highlights. On Thursday morning, November 30, 1922, at 10:00 A.M., a Solemn High Mass, coram Episcopo, Bishop Alerding presiding, was celebrated by Father Thiele. The Right Reverend Frank A. Rampe, Vicar General of Archdiocese of Chicago, delivered the sermon. Besides the solemnities incident to the religious observance of this 50th Anniversary, a civic celebration took place.

In the year 1929, His Holiness Pope Pius XI honored Father Thiele by making him a Papal Chamberlain, with the title of Very Reverend Monsignor. This distinguished honor was accorded him at the recommendation of Bishop Noll, in recognition of the splendid work he had accomplished during the twenty-four years of his priestly labors here. In September, 1933, on the occasion of his forty-fifth Anniversary of Ordination, he was again honored by this same Pontiff, when he was elevated to the rank of a Domestic Prelate with the title of Right Reverend Monsignor.

His next three years were trying ones. He was getting older and he was not a well man. St. Peter's, at one time so small had through the years now assumed the proportions of a large parish. Monsignor's advancing years and failing health were making it almost physicially impossible for him to continue as its pastor. None realized this better than himself. So it was that in August, 1936, he asked Bishop Noll to relieve him of this responsibility. The Bishop granted his request, and appointed Father John A. Bapst, then Pastor of St. Aloysius, Yoder, as Pastor of St. Peter's Parish.

On June 29, 1938, Monsignor was privileged to celebrate the Golden Jubilee of his ordination to the Priesthood. Planned and directed by Father Bapst, a most eleaborate program was

given in his honor. On this occasion it was said by one: "Monsignor Thiele is one of those great outstanding souls who contributed honor and glory to his Church by his great zeal and love for all that was good. . . . He has been a leader in the fullest sense of the term."

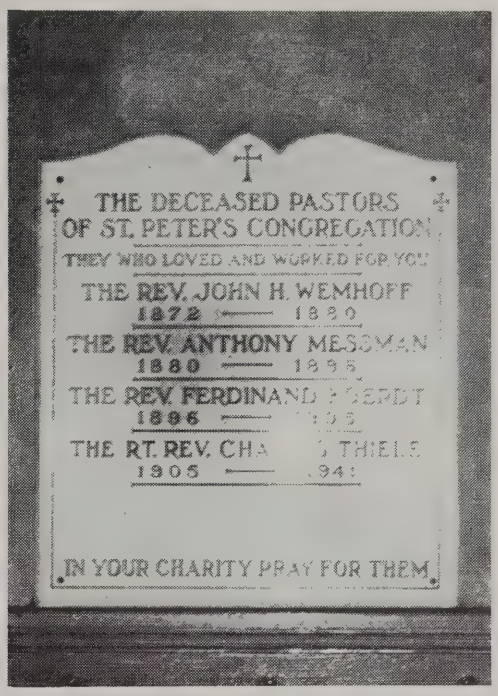
Gradually his health grew poorer. In June, 1940, his condition became such that demanded hospital care. He was then taken to St. Joseph's Hospital. On April 17, 1941, he passed away about 7:30 in the evening, calmly and peacefully. On April 19, 1941, Funeral Services were held in St. Peter's Church for the man who spent thirty-six years of his priestly life in that Parish.

FUNERAL MASS OF MONSIGNOR THIELE

In his eulogy Bishop Noll said of Monsignor Thiele: 'He was a real spiritual father in every parish in which he labored for fifty-three years — building, developing, working for others, but garnering very little for himself."

During the thirty-three years of his pastorate at St. Peter's Monsignor Thiele was assisted in his work by several young priests: Father Norbert Feldon (1905-09;) Father Michael J. Aichinger (1908-13); Father Edward Vurpillat (1913-18); Father John A. Dapp (1916-22); Father Nicholas Huemmer (1918-25); Father Arnold Wibbert (1922-31; Father Herman J. Mil-

ler (1925-35); Father Carl Holsinger (1931-36); Father Adrian Brandehoff and Father Thomas Durkin were assistants here when Father Bapst assumed the pastoral duties of the parish.



In the main Vestibule of the Church hangs this marble plaque — *a monument* to the four deceased pastors of St. Peter's, who spent their lives serving God and you; — *a reminder* to pray for the repose of their souls.

In August of the year 1936 Bishop Noll appointed Father John A. Bapst as successor to Monsignor Thiele and as fifth Pastor of St. Peter's Parish. He was born in Garrett, Indiana, June 19, 1894. He pursued his studies for the Holy Priesthood at St. Lawrence College, Mt. Calvary, Wisconsin. His Theology studies were made at St. Francis Seminary, St. Francis, Wisconsin. He was ordained to the Priesthood by Bishop Alerding on May 21, 1921. Shortly afterwards he was appointed as assistant to St. Joseph's Parish, Mishawaka, Indiana, where he remained until April 12, 1929. At this time he was transferred from Mishawaka and appointed Pastor of St. Joseph's Church, Bluffton. In 1935 he was sent to St. Aloysius Parish, Yoder. The following year in the month of August he was made the Pastor of St. Peter's Church, Fort Wayne. In the Fall of the year 1945 the Holy Father Pius XII honored Father Bapst by elevating him to the rank of a Papal Chamberlain with the title of Very Reverend Monsignor. On September 2, 1945, Bishop Noll invested him in the robes proper to this distinguished honor.

The entire eleven years of his pastorate here have proven him to be one who followed closely the path of zeal and endeavor marked by those who preceeded him. Indeed the story of "the five" has been much the same. Each was sent with a definite work to achieve; each

Bishop Noll invests Monsignor Bapst in the Robes of a Papal Chamberlain, September 2, 1945.

recognized it; each accomplished it. Monsignor Bapst was sent here to direct a program of general rehabilitation. A keen awareness of this fact came to him when he was here but a short time. We are witness to the splendid manner in which he accomplished it.

During the eleven years of his pastorate here, Monsignor Bapst has been assisted by Father Adrian Brandehoff, Father Thomas Durkin, and Father Herman Schoudel. At the present time Father Robert Zahn, Father Leo Armbruster, and Father Joseph Till are assisting.

In writing this brief history emphasis has been placed on the material progress of the Parish. Only incidentally was mention made of the spiritual. This was not an oversight; it was intended. For God's graces and blessings can never be counted arithmetically; sometimes they are intangible; very often they are known only to the individual and to God. Yet, there are certain signs which seem somewhat indicative of spiritual progress and development, and for whatever value they may have in this respect, allow us to present them here. First: the parish spiritual report for the year 1946 — a report typical of other years:

Baptisms	196	Holy Communions	112,843
Converts	46	Confessions	108,057

Secondly, and equally significant here is the large number of vocations that have come from St. Peter's Parish. In the past seventy-five years, seventeen young men from this Parish have been ordained to the Priesthood, and thirty-five girls have entered Religious Orders. Today, there are nine young men from the Parish preparing themselves for the Priesthood, and five girls preparing themselves for the Sisterhood.

Today as we joyously celebrate the Diamond Jubilee of our Parish, we are given the added thrill of seeing the establishment of our first daughter-Parish. Our congratulations to the members of the Sacred Heart Parish and to their Pastor, Father Thomas Durkin. When the history of their "seventy-five" years is written, may it be equally glorious and inspiring as that of their Mother today.

DIAMOND JUBILEE PROGRAM

Sunday, November 23, 1947 11:00 a.m.

Solemn Pontifical High Mass

Celebrant.....Most Reverend John F. Noll, D.D.

Archpriest.....Right Rev. John A. Dapp

Deacon.....Rev. Alfred Junk

Subdeacon.....Rev. Henry Suelzer, S.J.

Deacons of Honor.....Rev. Herbert Renner
Rev. Curt Suelzer

Masters of Ceremonies.....Very Rev. Charles Feltes
Rev. Thomas L. Durkin

Sermon.....Rt. Rev. Michael J. Aichinger

Sunday Evening.....*Solemn Benediction* of the Most Blessed Sacrament at 6:30 P.M.

Sunday Evening.....*Jubilee Entertainment* at 7:30 p.m.

Music....."Sentimental Four"
St. Peter's Choir
C.C.H.S. String Ensemble

Refreshments

Monday . . . . .

Nov. 24, Solemn Requiem High Mass—For the deceased members of the parish, its benefactors, and for the deceased priests and sisters who have labored here.

Evening at 7:30 p.m. Holy Hour and Solemn Benediction.

Tuesday . . . .

Nov. 25, Solemn High Mass—For all the living members, benefactors, priests and sisters of the parish.

Evening at 7:30, Holy Hour, Perpetual Help Devotions, and Solemn Benediction.

Wednesday . . .

Nov. 26, Solem High Mass (Requiem) for all those from this parish who gave their lives in the service of their country.

Evening at 7:30 p.m. Holy Hour and Solemn Benediction.

Thursday . . . .

Nov. 27, Solemn High Mass in Thanksgiving for all the favors and blessings that have come to this Parish during the seventy-five years of its existence.

Evening at 7:30 p.m. Holy Hour and Solemn Benediction.

Friday . . . . .

Nov. 28, Solemn High Mass—Petition that God may continue to bless the members of this congregation.

Evening at 7:30 p.m. Holy Hour and Solemn Benediction.

Saturday . . . .

Nov. 29, Solemn High Mass, for the special intentions of the people of this parish.

Evening, at 7:30 p.m. Holy Hour and Solemn Benediction.

✦ ✦ ✦

DIAMOND JUBILEE
PONTIFICAL HIGH MASS

Musical Program

The Votive Mass in Honor of the Most Holy Trinity is being sung by a combined choir of twenty men and thirty-four boys, with an added accompaniment of a string ensemble under the direction of Professor R. E. Magnan, organist and choirmaster.

✦ ✦ ✦

Organ Prelude ..... *Louis Raff*

Processional Hymn "Ecce Sacerdos Magnus" ..... *Stadier*

Introit—"Benedicta sit sancta Trinitas" ..... *Rossini*

Kyrie, Gloris—Jubilee Mass ..... *Marsh*

Tract—"Te Deum Patrem" ..... *Rossini*

Credo—Jubilee Mass ..... *Marsh*

Offertory—"Benedictus sit Deus Pater" ..... *Rossini*

Offertory Motet—"Ave Verum" ..... *Marsh*

Sanctus, Benedictus, Agnus Dei ..... *Marsh*

Communio—"Benedicimus Deum Caeli" ..... *Rossini*

Recessional Anthem—"Rejoice in the Lord" ..... *Wilson*

Postlude—March Pontificale ..... *Gounod*

The Following Priests have been Boys of St. Peter's Parish

Rev. John Tremmel*
Rev. Msgr. Thomas Jansen*
Rev. Gregory Zern*
Rev. Msgr. Felix Serozinski
Rev. Justin DeLagrange S.J.*
Rev. Joseph Suelzer
Rev. Frank Wyss C.S.C.
Rev. Curt Suelzer
Rev. Henry Suelzer S.J.
Rev. Alfred Junk J
Rev. Charles Magsam M.M.
Rev. Edward Christen
Rev. Thomas Danehy, M.M.
Rev. Thomas Koch
Rev. Herbert Renner, C.PP.S.
Rev. Elmer Ernst C.PP.S.
Rev. Herman Schnurr

(*Deceased).

The Following Boys from the Parish are now Preparing for the Priesthood

William Hodde
Charles Ueber
Adam Schmitt
Edward Wiegand
Michael Cerney
Raymond Cerney
Joseph Didion
Robert Alt
Thomas Stahl

These Girls from St. Peter's have enterd Notre Dame Order

Elizabeth Roeling.....Sister M. Adelaide*
Christine Roehling.....Sister M. Edista*
Josephine Roehling.....Sister M. Rudolphine
Agnes Suelzer.....Sister M. Hildegard
Anna Suelzer.....Sister M. Filumena
Agnes Suelzer.....Sister M. Catherine
Anna Stein.....Sister M. Fernanda*
Teresa Rink.....Sister M. Charles
Augusta Stein.....Sister M. Cyrilla
Adelaide Nassenstein.....Sister M. Ludolpha*
Emily Nassenstein.....Sister M. Angelica
Catherine Freiburger.....Sister M. Emilia

Mary Roehling.....Sister M. Conradila
Mary Junk.....Sister M. Rosalind
Antonette Herber.....Sister M. Antoinette
Irma Allgeier.....Sister M. Genevieve
Teresa Arens.....Sister M. F. Regis
Beatrice Christen.....Sister M. Loyola
Rita Miller.....Sister M. Marlita

Candidates for Notre Dame Order

Margaret Christen
Dolores Jehl

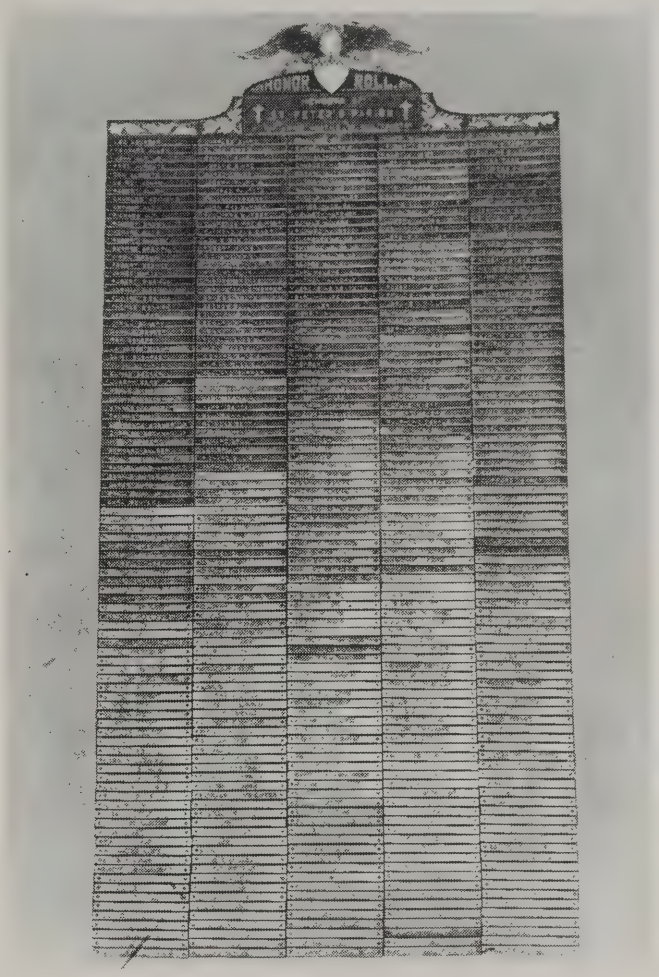
Girls from St. Peter's Who entered Other Religious Orders

Mary Steib.....Sister M. Corona
Barbara Kaufman.....Sister M. Electa
Lucy Jaeger.....Sister M. Regeberta
Cecelia Jaeger.....Sister M. Georgiana
Rosina Moorman.....Sister M. Luetta
Anna Jordan.....Sister M. Constance
Marie Freiburger.....Sister M. George
Muriel Bruck.....Sister M. Charlotte Marie
Rosalie Weller.....Sister Rosalie Marie
Nettie Eisen.....Sister M. Adelina
Gertrude Arnold.....Sister M. Cyril
Julia Feltz.....Sister M. Ernest
Mary Alter.....Sister M. Benezetta
Margaret Palmer.....Sister M. Angela
Rita Heinze.....Sister M. Johnine
Mary Cerney.....Sister M. Stephen
Jean Reising.....Sister M. Pauline
Marjorie Weller.....Sister M. Marcillita

Candidates for Other Orders

Ann Cerney

Mary Margaret Kramer



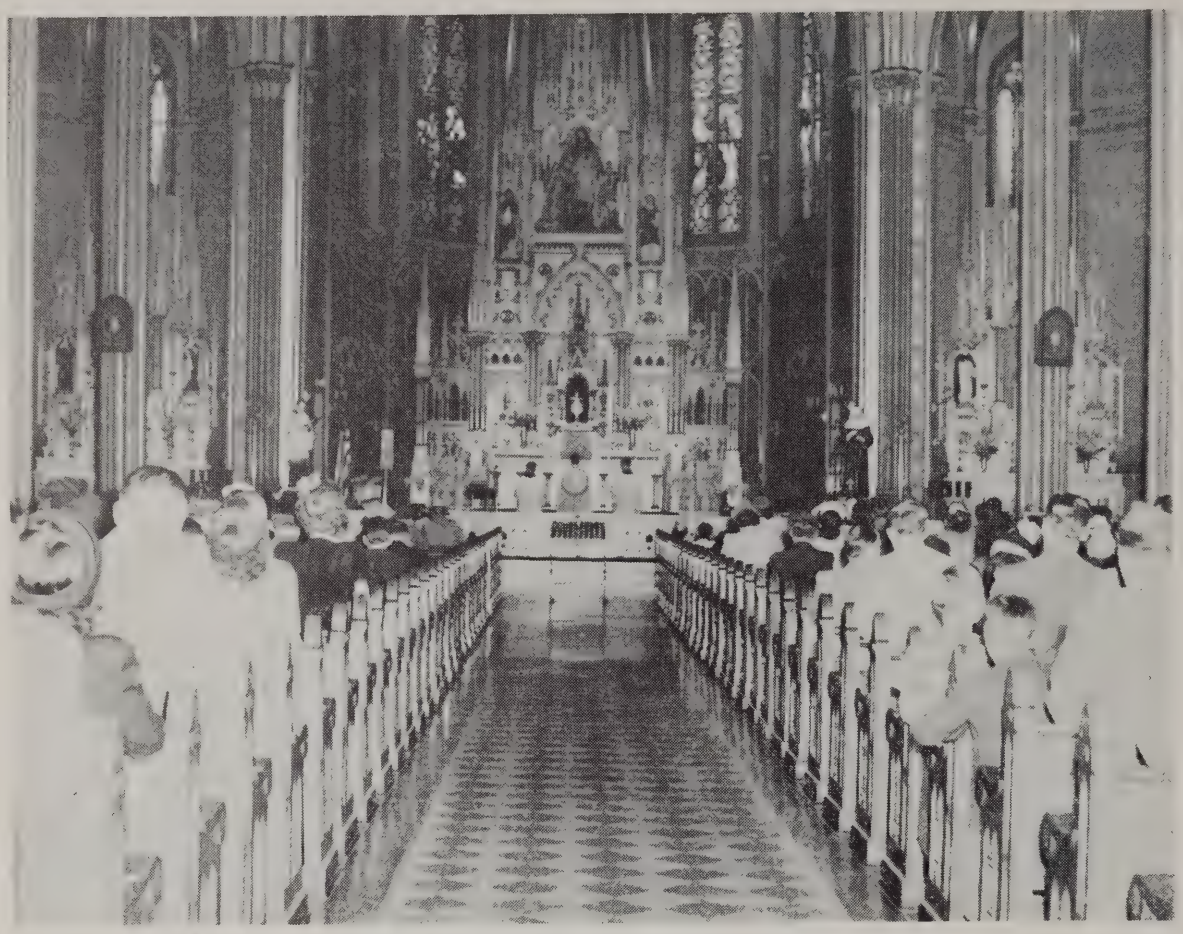
ST. PETER'S PARISH HONOR ROLL OF WORLD WAR II

A tribute to the 635 young men of this parish, who for love of God and Country left family, friends and home. A memorial to the nine who never returned.

Leo Grout
William Neher
Edward Koester
Paul Simonis
Cecil Oakes
Paul LaFontaine
Ernest Feltz
Richard Zartman
Donald Evard

Eternal Rest grant unto them, O Lord . . . .

May they rest in Peace. Amen.



THE CLOSE OF ANOTHER DAILY HOLY HOUR

On the 8th of December 1941 there was begun in St. Peter's Church a daily Holy Hour—a complete hour of public and private prayer before Our Blessed Lord exposed on the Altar. It has continued to this day unbroken.

✦ ✦ ✦

DID YOU KNOW

That the first child baptized in St. Peter's Church was Eva Marie Klein. She was baptized December 29, 1872.

That the first marriage in this parish took place between Lawrence Becker and Elizabeth Dierkes, in 1872.

That in 1872 there were only 54 families in the Parish, approximately 250 souls. That in 1922, fifty years later there were 714 families, approximately 2,843 souls. That today there are 1,350 families, approximately 5,423 souls.

That in the first fifty years of its existence there were 3,153 persons baptized. That during the past twenty-five years there have been 3,247 persons baptized. The total number of baptisms that took place in St. Peter's Church is 6,400.

That during the first fifty years of its existence there were 721 marriages performed here at the Parish. In the past twenty-five years 1,105 marriages have been performed, giving a total of 1,826 marriages for the seventy-five years.

That there are more than 700 electric lights illuminating the altars in the Church. There are more than 400 lights on the Main Altar.

That in the entire seventy-five years of its existence there have been only five Pastors of St. Peter's Parish.

That the Pipe Organ in St. Peter's Church has a three manual console, and a total of 3,311 pipes.

That the Church is fashioned after a pure Gothic style. In dimension it is 190 feet in length and 80 ft. in breadth. In area 15,200 square feet. The steeple of the Church towers over 200 feet.

That the School Sisters of Notre Dame (S.S.N.D.) are from Milwaukee, Wisconsin. They have been teaching in St. Peter's School for the past sixty-six years. That this Community came to America just one-hundred years ago. That eighteen girls from this parish are members of this Community.

That in the seventy-five years of its existence there have been 2,160 deceased persons buried from St. Peter's.

FACULTY OF ST. PETER'S GRADE SCHOOL

First Row: S. Manuella, S. Clara, S. Reinildis, S. Amatina, S. Lukana, S. Vincenta.
Second Row: S. Melfrieda, S. Raphaeline, S. Camillus, S. Laetaria, S. Aura, S. Honoria.
Third Row: S. Ronald, S. Benadette, S. Carentia.

THE SISTERS OF NOTRE DAME

It is indeed a happy coincidence that the Diamond Jubilee Year of our Parish also marks the Centenary of the Notre Dame Order's coming to America. The original congregation of Notre Dame was founded near the close of the 16th Century at Mattaincourt in the Province of Lorraine, France. In 1697 Blessed Alix Le Clerc, the first Superioress, began her religious life together with four other companions. The order spread rapidly throughout France, Germany and Savoy. During the French Revolution, however, all its houses were suppressed and its property confiscated. In 1809, in consequence of the secularization brought about by Napoleon, the houses established in Bavaria were also suppressed and the Sisters dispersed.

In 1883 it was re-established by Caroline Gerhardinger, later known as Ven. Mother Theresa, under the guidance of the saintly Bishop Michael Wittmann of Ratisbon, and the holy priest, Francis Job of Nuerenburg. The purpose of the Foundation, which became known as the School Sisters of Notre Dame, was the instruction and training of youth. The work of the congregation was, however, not to be confined to Europe.

On July 31, 1847, the Feast of St. Ignatius, Ven. Mother Theresa came to New York, accompanied by five Sisters, who were to begin their missionary labors in St. Mary's, Pennsylvania, where the Sisters took charge of the first School in America. Among these pioneer Sisters was Sister Mary Caroline, who may justly be called the Foundress of the Congregation in America. For three years the work of the Sisters was carried on in the East almost exclusively; but in 1850 the principal Motherhouse was established at Milwaukee, and Venerable Sister M. Caroline was appointed the first Mother Superior of the Congregation in America.

At present the School Sisters of Notre Dame in America number five provinces with 5,821 religious personnel in 449 houses. They have under their spiritual care 151,816 children and young ladies. This number includes children in orphanages, kindergartens, grade schools, high schools, and young ladies in colleges, in an area extending from New York to Spokane, from Saskatchewan to Puerto Rico.

This Community have been teaching in St. Peter's School since the year 1881, a period of sixty-six years. At the present the group includes the following: Sister M. Reinildis, Superior, Sister M. Lukana, Sister M. Vincenta, Sister M. Amatina, Sister M. Manuella, Sister M. Laetaria, Sister M. Benadette, Sister M. Clara, Sister M. Aura, Sister M. Honoria, Sister M. Camillus, Sister Raphaeline, Sister M. Ronald, Sister M. Carentia, Sister Melfrieda, Sister M. Cecil.

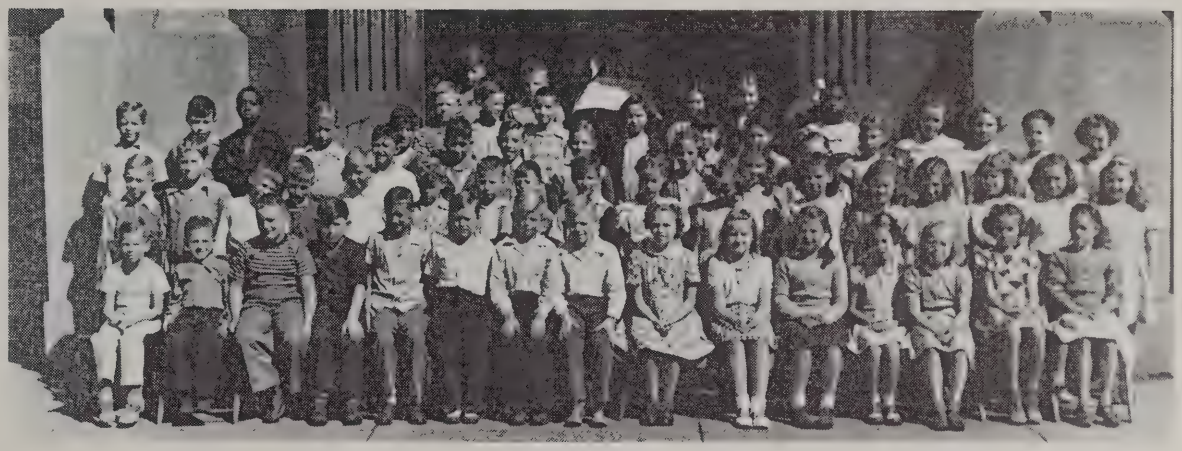
✦ ✦ ✦

Kindergarten — Sister M. Vincenta

Sister M. Melfrieda First Grade Sister M. Ronald

Sister M. Laetaria Second Grade Sister M. Benadette

Third Grade Sister M. Amatina



Fourth Grade Sister M. Lukana

Sister M. Manuella Fifth Grade Sister M. Camillus

Sister M. Honoria Sixth Grade Sister M. Camillus

Sister M. Carentia Seventh Grade Sister M. Aura

Sister Aura Eighth Grade Sister M. Raphaeline

CEREMONY OF BREAKING THE GROUND FOR THE NEW SCHOOL—1914

(Left to right): F. Kuentzel, A. Jehl, (unidentified), Fr. Vurpillat, Msgr. Thiele.

ST. PETER'S SCHOOL CAFETERIA

Mrs. P. Arnold, Mrs. A. Hodde, Mrs. V. Christman and Mrs. M. Smith
(During the school year 1946-47, these women prepared and served 27,091 meals to the children here.)

THE LEGION OF MARY

(Seated): J. Vorndran, R. Fox, Father Zahn, C. Deininger, A. Koehl
(Standing): Mrs. C. Sawyer, L. Huhnke, M. Redmerski, G. Gelhaus.

OFFICERS OF ST. AGNES SODALITY

(Seated): E. Roth, H. Reising, Father Zahn, L. Schiffli.
(Standing): C. Schnieders, A. Roth, P. Freiburger.

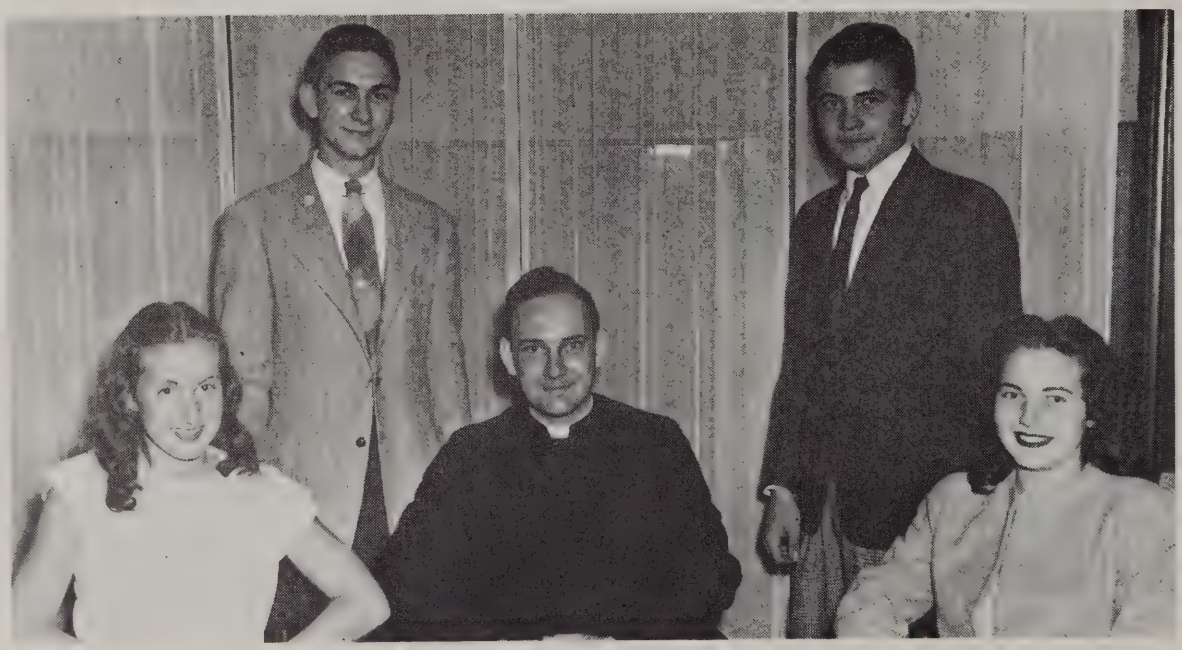
ST. CHARLES FRATERNITY OF THE THIRD ORDER OF ST FRANCIS. OFFICERS

(Standing): Miss N. Rhodes, R. Grimmer, M. Johnson, F. Smith, Mrs. R. Grimmer
(Seated): Mrs. C. Sawyer, D. Jokerst, C. Deininger, Father Ambrose, Mrs. E. Heinkel, Mrs. A. Ault and Mrs. H. Phillipps.

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY OF ST PETER'S PARISH

(Seated): J. Ehinger, H. Gebert, Father Armbruster, R. Oakes, V. Christman
(Standing): S. Robinson, S. Buchanan, G. Freiburger, V. Oakes, J. Klingenberger, A. Wiegand,

HOLY FAMILY MISSION CENTER

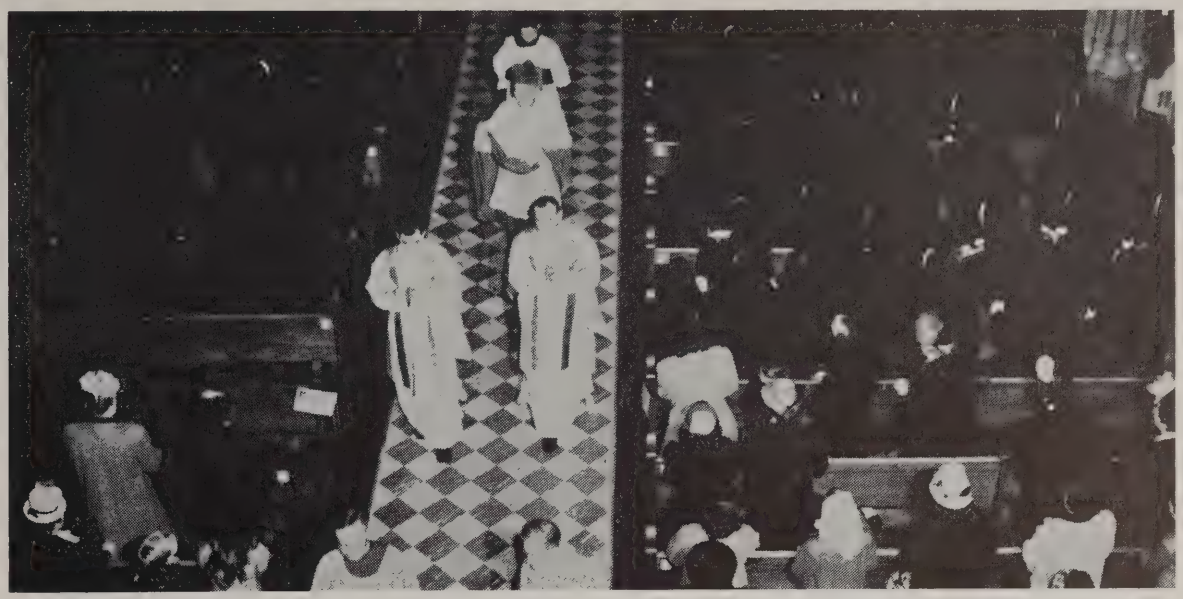


OFFICERS OF ST. PETER'S C. Y. O.

(Seated): Marilyn Nassenstein, Father Till, Marian Ueber.
(Standing): Robert Wedler and Stephen Ueber.

On November 5, 1947, the School Sisters of Notre Dame celebrated the 100th Anniversary of their coming to America. Commemorating that event a Solemn Pontifical High Mass was celebrated in St. Peter's Church. The above picture shows His Excellency, John Francis Noll, Bishop of Fort Wayne, walking in solemn procession to the Church.

Accompanied by the Deacon and Subdeacon of the Mass, the Bishop incenses the altar.

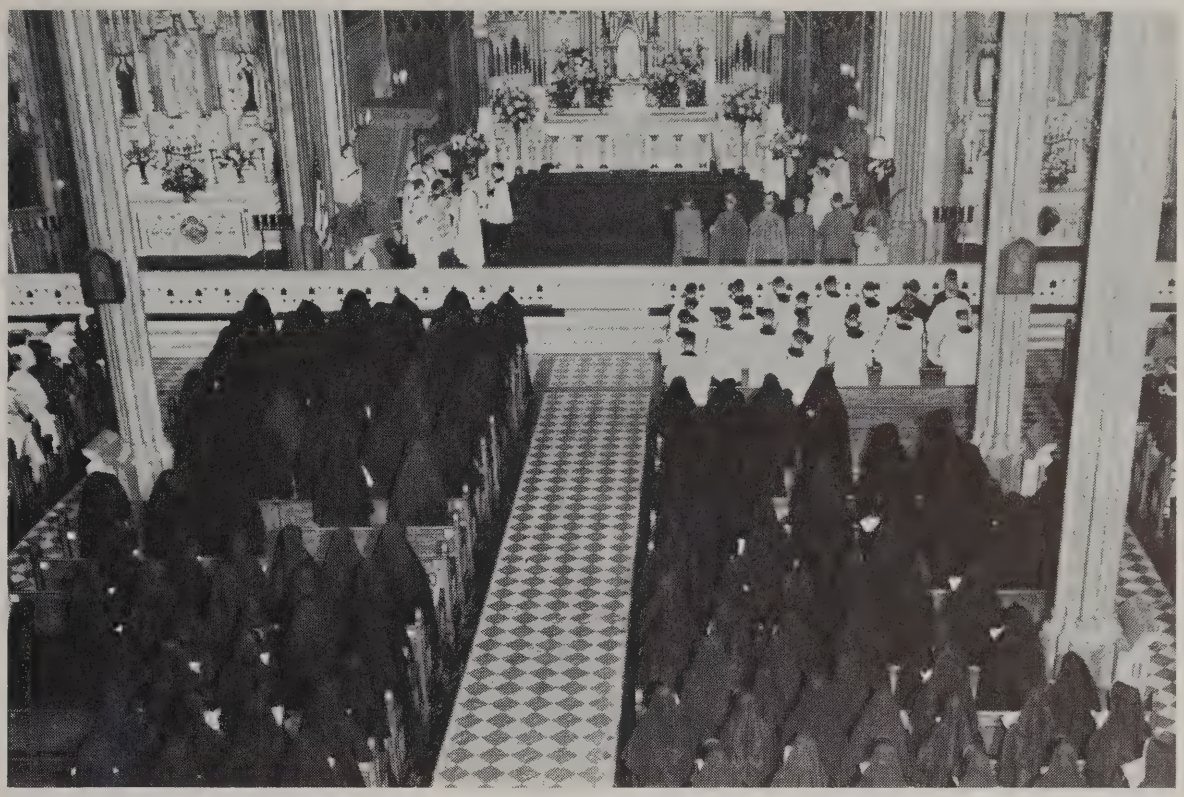


The Mass ended, the Bishop walks in procession down the center aisle of the Church, imparting his Episcopal Blessing to the group, as he passes.

Following the Solemnities in the Church, the Sisters assemble in the School Auditorium, where they attend a buffet banquet.

Following the banquet, Bishop Noll speaks to the Priests.

Professor R. E. Magnan, organist and choirmaster with St. Peter's Boys' Choir.



All of the Sisters from the city and from neighboring towns attended this celebration. Part of the large number present for the Mass may be seen above.

The photography appearing in this book is the work of Father H. A. Scoudel, Clem Schmidt, Christie Photo Service, Clippinger Studios, A. J. Harold, and the Lincoln Engravers.

Msgr. Thomas Jansen

Rev. Gregory Zern

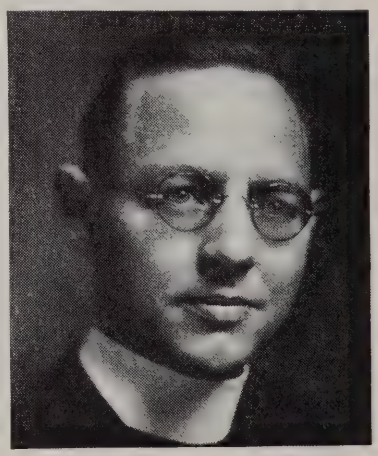
Msgr. Felix Serozinzki

Rev. Joseph Suelzer

Some of the Priests Who Were Once Boys of St. Peter's Parish

Rev. Frank Wyss, C.S.C

Rev. Curt Suelzer



Rev. Henry Suelzer, S. J.

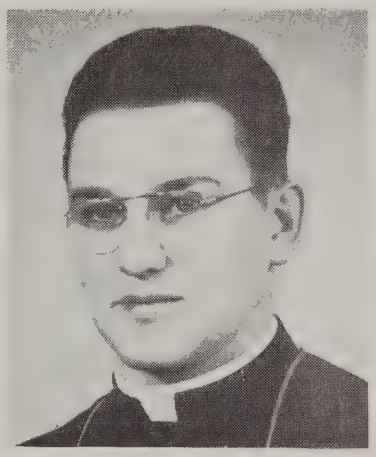
Rev. Alfred Junk

Rev. Charles Magsam, M. M.

Rev. Edward Christen

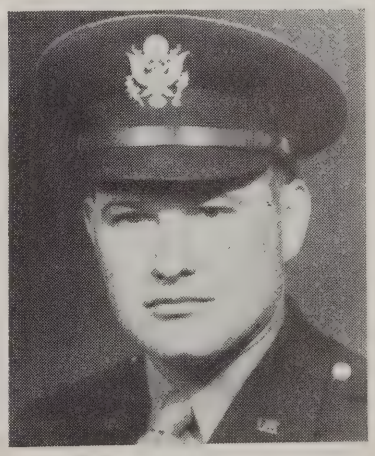
Rev. Thomas Danehy, M. M.

Some of the Priests Who Were Once Boys of St. Peter's Parish



Rev. Elmer Ernst, C.PP.S.

Rev. Herbert Renner, C.PP.S.



Rev. Thomas Koch

Former Assistants at St. Peter's Parish

Rev. John Biedermann
(deceased)

Rev. Norbert Feldon
(deceased)

Rt. Rev. M. J. Aichinger
St. Joseph's Church
Logansport, Ind.

Rt. Rev. Ed. H. Vurpillat
Immaculate Conception Church
Michigan City, Indiana.

Rt. Rev. John A. Dapp
Cathedral of Immaculate
Conception, Fort Wayne, Indiana

Rev. Arnold Wibbert
St. Matthew's Church
South Bend, Indiana

Rev. Herman Miller
St. John's Church
Goshen, Indiana.

Very Rev. Adrian Brandehoff
Pontifical College Josephinum
Worthington, Ohio.

Rev. Thomas L. Durkin
Sacred Heart Church
Fort Wayne, Indiana.

Rev. Herman A. Schoudel
Church of the Little Flower
Waynedale, Indiana.

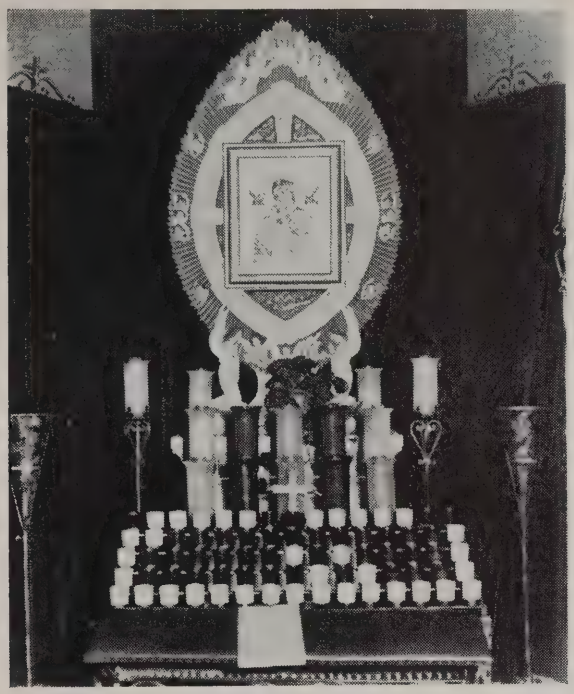
The Assistants of St. Peter's Parish at the Present Time

✦ ✦ ✦

Rev. Robert J. Zahn

Rev. Leo J. Armbruster

Rev. Joseph E. Till



PERPETUAL HELP

SACRED HEART

SORROWFUL MOTHER

SISTER'S CHAPEL

ST. PETER'S COMMERCIAL SCHOOL—FIRST GRADUATION CLASS—1900

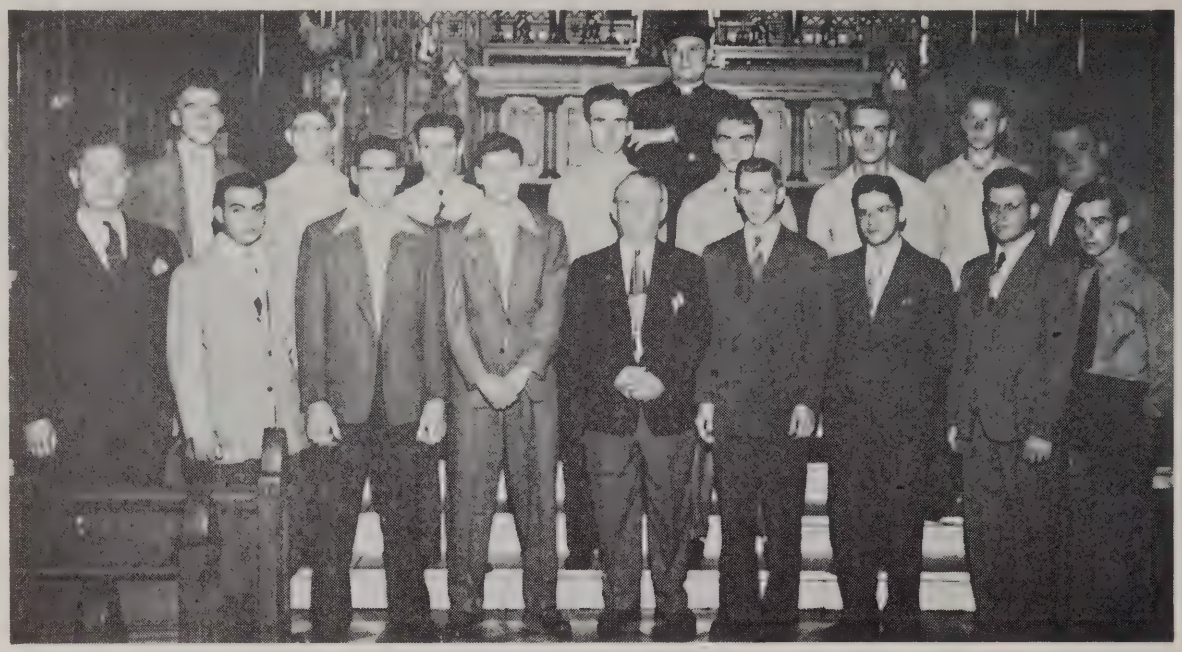
(Seated left to right): Alphonsa Bickel, William Ryan, Edith Klotz Beck
(Standing, left to right): John Schu, Bernard Harber, Frank Friedman, John Suelzer, Jr.

ST. PETER'S COMMERCIAL SCHOOL—LAST GRADUATION CLASS—1938

First Row: J. Hudelson, M. Redmond, Msgr. Bapst, Msgr. Thiele, E. Meyers, F. Offerle
Second Row: M. Christen, J. Pearson, J. Ernst, A. Chomey, A. Starzynski, M. Marten, D. Luegring, N. J. Bugert, G. McCarron.
Third Row: F. Allen, D. Peconga, V. Ramsa, A. Roth, L. Schultz.
Fourth Row: R. Miller, L. Pratt, R. Conroy, G. Minnick, U. Horstman, H. DePrey, J. Haffner.

ST. PETER'S BOYS' CHOIR—1914

THE ALTAR BOYS OF ST. PETER'S PARISH 1947



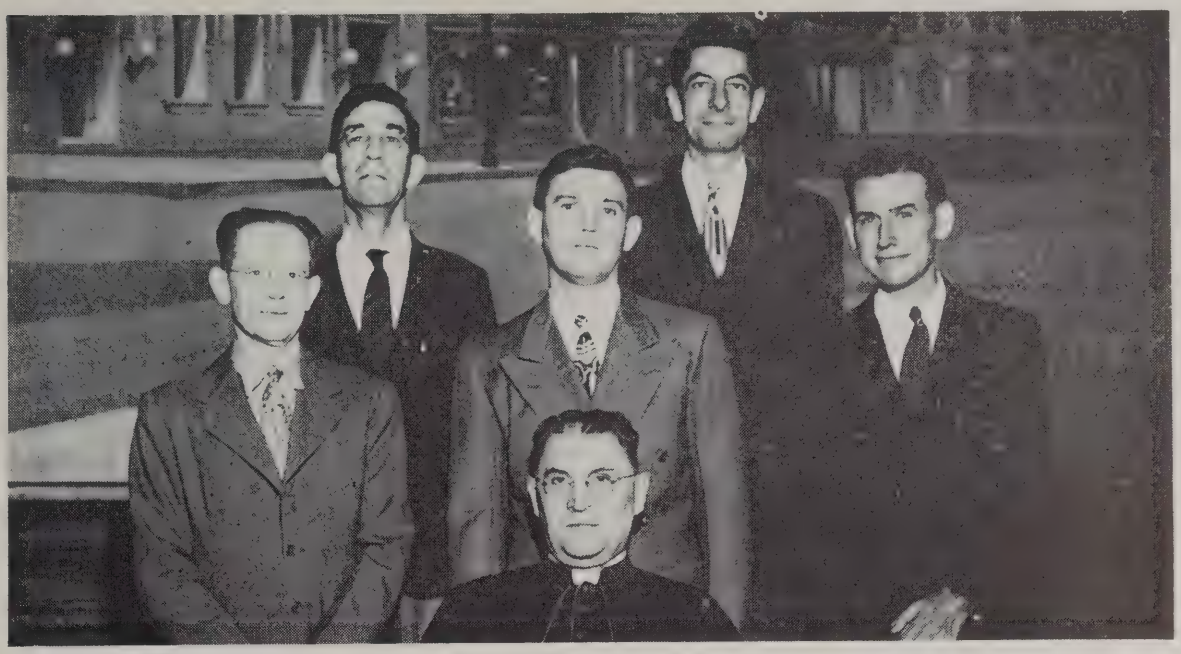
ST. PETER'S MALE CHOIR

Msgr. Bapst

L. Dougherty, T. Wedler, A. Loew, D. Ehinger, Weaver P. Arnold, P. Redmerski
C. Orth, E. Deininger, Prof. R. E. Magnan, R. Wedler, S. Hudelson, D. Gentile, Hambrock.

ST. PETER'S USHERS' CLUB

First Row: L. Bueter, F. Miller, P. Redmerski, T. O'Connell
Second Row: Msgr. Bapst, C. Gnau, J. Klingenberger, N. Klingenberger, H. Ehinger.
Third Row: J. Ehinger, J. Junk, W. Franke, A. Sauter, A. Hambrock.
Fourth Row: N. Sauter, J. H. Bueter, W. Sorg, N. Helmkamp.
Fifth Row: E. Reinhart, W. Follmar, E. Koehl.



OFFICERS OF ST. PETER'S HOLY NAME SOCIETY

G. Freiburger F. Hahn
A. Wiegand P. Becker W. Beckman
Monsignor Bapst

OFFICERS OF THE CHRISTIAN MOTHERS' SOCIETY

Mrs. G. Renner, Mrs. C. Roth, Mrs. L. Giant, Mrs. C. Martin, Monsignor Bapst

ST. PETER'S PARISH TRUSTEES

Leonard Bueter, Charles Manett, Lawrence Schnieders, Julian Franke, Sr.

OFFICERS OF ST. PETER'S PARISH UNION

RETIRING OFFICERS OF THE PARENT TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

Mrs. S. Cerney, Mrs. E. Schneider, Mrs. J. Westendorf, Mrs. F. Hartman, Mrs. A. Nicodemus.

ST. PETER'S AFFILIATE WITH THE N C C W.

Mrs. E. Rosenberger, Mrs. C. Ueber, Mrs. P. Arnold

PRESENT OFFICERS OF ST. PETER'S P. T. A.

Mrs. H. Phillipp, Mrs. J. Kummer, Mrs. E. Molitor, Mrs. G. Roskuski, Mrs. W. Hessler

ST. PETER'S CHOIR 40 YEARS AGO

(Standing, left to right): Carl Schellhammer, Matthias Junk, John Schnurr
(Seated): Prof. J. F. Bickel, Msgr. Thiele, Jacob Junk.

PATRONS

Very Rev. John A. Bapst
Rev. Robert J. Zahn
Rev. Leo J. Armbruster
Rev. Joseph E. Till
Adang, Charles
Alberding, Mrs. and Mrs. Edward J
Allen, Mrs. Catherine
sAlt, John and Anna
Alt, Mathias
Anderson, Mr. and Mrs. C. Wayne
Andorfer, Frank
Andorfer, Leo
Andorfer, Leonard
Andorfer, Louis
Andorfer, Mr. and Mrs. M. J.
Anspaugh, Mr. and Mrs. Donald
App, Mrs. M.
Arend, Mr. and Mrs. Norbert
Arnold, D. A.
Arnold, Paul
Auer, Emil F.
Aurentz, Mrs. Anna
Bailey, Clarence
Baker, Mrs. Robert H.
Balser, Victor
Bangert, Frank A.
Bangert, Mr. and Mrs. Joseph W.
Barnes, Mrs. Mary
Bauermeister, Ernest
Bauman, Mr. and Mrs. Robert J.
Becker, Mr. and Mrs. Louis
Becker, Theresa J.
Beckman, C. M.
Beckman, Mr. and Mrs. John
Beckman, Leo and Family
Beckman, Mr. and Mrs. Walter
Beekman, Mr. and Mrs. Al
Belot, James H.
Berdelman, Mrs. Roy
Berg, Joseph P. and Family
Brening, Clara
Bickel, Dr. and Mrs. J. E.
Bueret, Harold
Bireley, Mrs. Russell
Bitner, Mrs. Mary
Blank, Mrs. Bernard
Bobay, Paul
Bobay, Harley
Bogenschultz, E. J.
Bogner, L. A. Sr.
Boitet, Leo L.
Boone, Geo. W.
Bornkamp, Mrs. Oscar
Brady, Mr. and Mrs. Robert E.
Brannan, Grace
Branning, Mrs. Walter L.
Breihof, J. P.
Brown, Mr. and Mrs. Harold S.
Bruck, J. A.
Buchanan, Charles L.
Buchanan, Samuel G.
Burns, Charles E.
Burns, Rosalie
Burns, D. J.
Burns, Mr. and Mrs. Nelson
Bushroe, Daisy M.
Bushroe, Silas S.
Butz, Mrs. Martha
Calkins, Frank B.
Cattez, Louise
Cerney, Stephen S.
Charlton, J. C.
Christen, Mr. and Mrs. Henry
Christen, Mr. and Mrs. Norbert
Christen, Richard G.
Christie, Robert and Family
Christle, Paul W.
Christle, Thomas
Christman, Mr. Alfred J.
Christman, N. I.
Christman, Mr. and Mrs. Virgil
Clapp, H.
Clark, Mr. and Mrs. J. C.
Conboy, William
Corbin, Mr. and Mrs. Orval
Craighead, Mr. and Mrs. Robert
Cromly, Mrs. F. J.
Cryan, C. J.
Culligan, Mrs. Mary
Curtin, Mr. and Mrs. A. J.
Dahm, Mr. and Mrs. Bert
Danehy, Jerry
Daugherty, Mr. and Mrs. Leo R.
Dausher, Mr. and Mrs. Edward A.
Davies, E. S.
Deahl, Mrs. R.
Deck, Miss Frances
Deininger, Albert L.
Deininger, Albert V.
Deininger, Celeste
Deininger, Eugene
Deininger, Joseph
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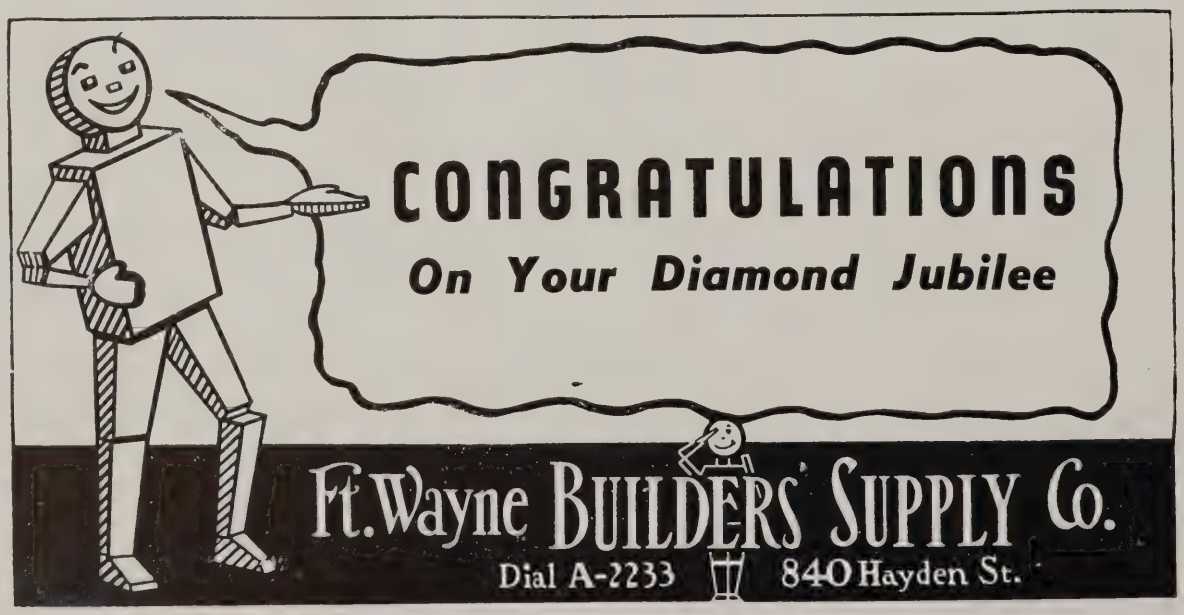

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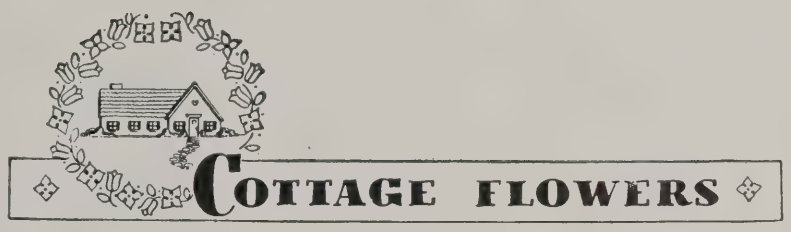

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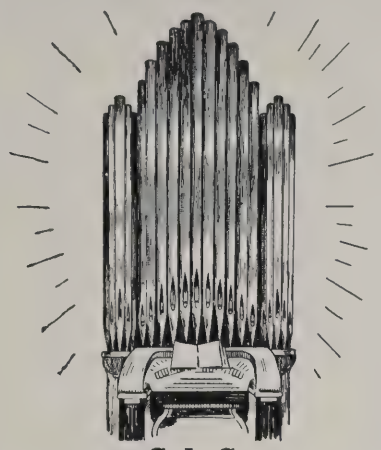

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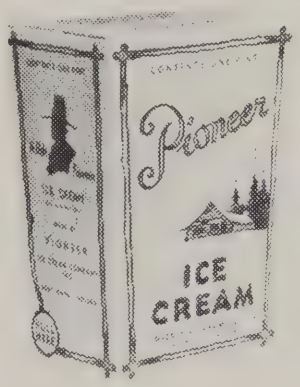

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